



Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * June 2001*

Maine Recycles Week 2001 to Include a Municipal Contest



The Maine Recycles Week (MRW) 2001 Steering Committee has begun meeting to work on this year's MRW campaign. The 3rd annual MRW will take place November 8-15, 2001.

MRW 2000 focused much effort on involving Maine schools in the week-long celebration of recycling and buying recycled. With over 50 schools participating and over 1000 entries in the MRW Poster Contest, MRW 2000 was a success in raising recycling awareness in our schools.

In order to compliment the strength of the school outreach, this year the MRW Steering Committee would like to get municipalities more meaningfully involved in MRW by holding a municipal contest. The prizes for this contest are yet to be determined, but suggestions are welcome.

Rather than comparing town recycling rates, which can be easily skewed, the committee will ask towns to develop and implement their own educational campaigns during MRW. The committee will then judge the various campaigns based on predetermined criteria: how many residents were reached, whether schools were involved, etc.

The Steering Committee is still in the very beginning stages of developing this contest, but full details will be available in the September newsletter. Should you have any suggestions, please contact Shannon Haines at 207-287-8053.

MAPRAP Gives the Green Light to 55 Proposed Projects

After months of promotion by SPO staff in cooperation with ME DEP, the Mercury Added Products Recycling Assistance Program (MAPRAP) is poised to enter its "bricks and mortar" phase. Letters have been sent out to towns and regional programs to inform them as to the status of their applications and what the next steps will be.

74 completed applications were received by the April 30th deadline. Applicants were given three options to choose from and were asked to rank them 1, 2, or 3 as to their priority. 32 applicants ranked storage for universal waste as #1, 30 applications listed sheds as their priority, and 12 programs put collection event support at the top of their wish list.

With the limited amount of funds available for this program, it was possible that some applications would not make the *(cont'd on page 2)*



State Planning Office to Relocate!

The Maine State Planning Office will be relocating its offices to the Key Bank building on Water Street in downtown Augusta. Presently planned for early October, the move will allow for the consolidation of all SPO programs into a single building while promoting the wisdom of utilizing downtown areas. Plans are currently under development but at this point, aside from a new physical location, we anticipate no changes in phone or fax numbers, and, e-mail addresses and web site should remain unaffected.



MAPRAP Gives the Green Light to 55 Proposed Projects

(cont'd from page 1)

first cut. The breakdown (by option) of the proposed projects appears in Table 1.

SPO emphasized in the application package, in the cover letter and the application information summary, that regional efforts would be a priority as well as population served and the ability to move forward successfully with the project. Applications were not approved for this first phase of the assistance program principally because: there is reasonable expectation that the community will be served by a nearby regional program; they were single stand alone towns; or the applicant had no experience with HHW events.

Mercury spill kits and signage that are part of the shed and storage "package" have been ordered. In addition, work proceeds on the statewide service agreement for the collection, transport, and recycling of the mercury added products and we anticipate that it will be in place in advance of the date given in the grant application package.

As for towns and programs that chose not to participate in this grant round, SPO hopes that they will have their questions answered as the Mercury Recycling Program develops over the next year. SPO has a bond request proposed for the next sessions of the legislature. If that passes, there will be money available for a second grant round for additional storage facilities for Universal Waste and Mercury Products. Hopefully those programs that hung back this year will have the opportunity and the confidence to move forward at that time.

State funded support for ongoing operational costs for the collection and disposal/recycling of these wastes and other household hazardous wastes remains a question mark, as it has for the last decade. The total ban on the disposal of mercury added products from all sources goes into effect January 1, 2005.

Table 1. Proposed MAPRAP Projects

Universal Waste Storage (32)

- 24 applicants will receive award letters
- 5 applications were not granted in this phase
- 3 applications are on "hold" pending successful resolution of regulatory compliance issues.

The "Shed Program" (30)

- 25 applicants will receive award letters
- 5 applications were not granted in this phase

Collection Event Support (12)

- 6 applicants will receive award letters
- 4 applications were not granted in this phase
- 2 are ranked lower priority, to go forward depending upon the availability of funds.

2000 Municipal & Regional Recycling Reports



As of June 1st, SPO has received 238 recycling reports from Maine towns and regions. Recycling reports for 232 towns or regions, representing 71% of Maine's population, have been processed and mailed to towns. Eight towns submitted reports with insufficient information to calculate their recycling rate.

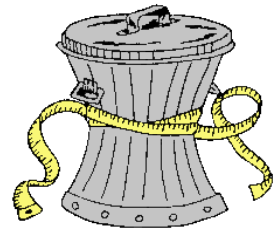
The 2000 Recycling Report features an analysis section in which a number of statistics are calculated for each town. Examples of these statistics are: 1) tons of MSW per person; 2) tons of material recycled per person; 3) tons of trash per person; 4) dollars expended per person; 5) percent residential waste; 6) percent bulky waste; and 7) percent commercial waste.

This summer, Hank Tyler at SPO will evaluate the 2000 municipal and regional data and prepare the 2000 Recycling Report. This report will present an analysis of 2000 data and discuss municipal recycling trends from a statewide viewpoint. In September the report will be sent to every town and region in Maine.

If your town has not yet submitted the 2000 Annual Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Report, please contact Hank Tyler at 287-1489.

The 2001 Governor's Waste Reduction Awards

Each year, the Governor presents his Waste Reduction Award to recognize efforts to reduce the volume and/or toxicity of the wastes an operation or activity may generate. Two institutions received this year's Public Sector awards.



The Maine Hospital Association

The Maine Hospital Association was recognized for their 'Maine Hospitals for a Healthy Environment', adopted on behalf of their 38 member Maine Hospitals. The agreement is the result of nearly 16 months of cooperative effort with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Natural Resources Council of Maine (also representing 'Healthcare Without Harm'), the Maine State Planning Office, representatives from hospitals and Group Purchasing Organizations, and the Maine People's Alliance. Hospitals will work to achieve the following goals:

- to virtually eliminate mercury containing waste from the health care industry waste stream by the year 2005;
- to investigate pollution prevention opportunities to minimize the production of other persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) pollutants by the health care industry,
- to reduce the volume of all wastes generated by the health care industry, with an initial goal of achieving a 33% reduction in all hospitals by 2005 and an overall goal of achieving a 50% reduction by 2010.

Southern Maine Technical College

Southern Maine Technical College was also recognized for their work with the Partnership for Environmental Technology Education through a US EPA Region 1 Team to 'Green the Campus'.

What was different with this approach, from other standard or traditional 'environmental review projects', was the close involvement and commitment of students in completing the audits, drafting recommendations and developing bid documents to correct identified deficiencies or opportunities.

Twenty one students, enrolled in the Environmental Technology program, investigated six topic areas: Water Conservation, Stormwater Management and Wastewater Generation, Air Quality, Energy Conservation, Solid Waste Management Practices, and, Hazardous Waste and Special Waste Practices. The students had the added benefit of working with professionals from various regional environmental support teams, as well as the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Central Maine Power.

While the outcome of the investigations was valuable, students who participated in the 'Green Campus' project learned that real life does not always add up to what the textbooks say.



Pay-As-You-Throw in Maine

The State Planning Office would like to welcome Windham as Maine's newest Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) community. Windham initiated a PAYT program on April 2, 2001. With a population of 14,904, it becomes Maine's second largest PAYT community. Communities looking to increase recycling percentages and reduce disposal costs have shown considerable interest in PAYT programs.

If your community is interested in PAYT, please contact the State Planning Office at 287-9074 for more information. State Planning Office offers a report on PAYT programs in Maine (complete with a survey of PAYT towns), technical assistance, and cost/benefit analysis. You can also find SPO's PAYT materials on the web at: www.recyclemaine.com. Click on the Publications button and follow the link to Pay-As-You-Throw Resources.

Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050
www.recyclemaine.com

“In Our Backyard”

“In Our Backyard” is a weekly column put out by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that appears in many Maine newspapers. “In Our Backyard” covers many environmental topics including hazardous waste, waste reduction, and recycling. If you have trouble finding a newspaper that carries “In Our Backyard,” it is available on the DEP web site at: janus.state.me.us/dep/iob/.

Web Site Additions

We have added the following new features to our web site at www.recyclemaine.com:

- A list of waste management & recycling related statutes;
- A “Community in Focus” page, which will feature a different municipal recycling program every month. (Hard copies will also be available by request.)

We are always looking for ways to improve our web site. You can help us make it more useful to you by giving us your suggestions. If there is something you would like to see on our site, call Shannon Haines at 207-287-8053.

Coming Soon



The **University of Maine Compost School** will take place **June 25 - 29** at **University of Maine at Orono**. Contact Neal Hallee at 581-5741 or go to the web site at www.composting.org.

The **Maine Resource Recovery Association Annual Meeting** will take place on **June 28, 2001** at **Kennebec Valley Technical College** in **Fairfield**. Please call MRRA at 942-6772 for more information.

Maine Recycles Week 2001 is **November 8 - 15**. It is never too early to start planning! Call Shannon Haines at 287-8053 for more information.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation

Our Mission

The RBRC is a nonprofit, public service organization whose mission is to be the leader in the environmentally safe collection, transportation and recycling of portable rechargeable batteries. RBRC's charter focus is to advance and administer the comprehensive rechargeable battery recycling program in communities, businesses and government agencies.

**If it's rechargeable,
it's recyclable!**



Communities *Charge Up to Recycle!*

The greatest champions of environmental protection are community leaders just like you. Communities throughout the U.S. and Canada are recycling newspapers, plastic, aluminum and glass. But we need to add portable rechargeable batteries to that list.

Rechargeable batteries are the indispensable power source in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers and camcorders. But when these rechargeable batteries can no longer hold a charge, they need to be recycled.

RBRC's *Charge Up to Recycle!* is designed to keep rechargeable batteries out of the solid waste stream. This program offers you and your community the tools to implement a simple, cost-effective recycling plan.

If it is rechargeable, it's recyclable!

RBRC provides the Battery Recycling Seal to our licensees (battery manufacturers and resellers) to imprint on portable rechargeable battery packs. This way the pack can be easily identified as a rechargeable battery by the end user.

RBRC recycles the following portable rechargeable battery chemistries:

- Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)
- Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
- Lithium Ion (Li-ion)
- Small Sealed Lead (Pb)*

*weighing less than 2lbs. or 1kg.



Join the RBRC Recycling Effort

To get started, complete the online registration form at www.rbrc.org or fill out the form on the back of this sheet and fax it toll free to (877) 405-6082. Then start looking for the RBRC Battery Recycling Seal on your rechargeable products and batteries. RBRC offers collection boxes that include pre-paid, pre-addressed shipping labels, safety instructions and plastic bags for each used battery.

Once a collection container is full, it should be shipped to the recycling facility. RBRC pays for the shipping and recycling costs. Some recovered materials can be used to make new products. The cadmium is used to make new batteries, while the nickel and iron are used to make stainless steel products.

*This insert was created with information provided by RBRC as a resource to municipalities.
The Maine State Planning Office does not endorse this service over any other.*

RBRC *Charge Up to Recycle!* Program Form

Please note: This form is for municipalities only. Businesses & other entities, please call 1-877-723-1297 for more info.

Here are 3 easy ways to register your municipality or community as a rechargeable battery collection site:

1. Register online at www.rbrc.org;
2. Complete the form below and fax it toll free to (877) 405-6082; or
3. Call toll free (877) 723-1297

Municipalities and communities participating in the *Charge Up to Recycle!* program are listed as active collection sites on the RBRC web site at www.rbrc.org, and on the RBRC helpline, 1-800-8-BATTERY.

___ My community will collect less than 1,000 pounds of portable rechargeable batteries per year.

To the address listed below, please send:

- ___ 2 boxes (\$10USD/\$15CDN+GST)
- ___ 5 boxes (\$25USD/\$37.50CDN+GST)
- ___ 10 boxes (\$50USD/\$75CDN+GST)

___ My community will collect 1,000 pounds or more of portable rechargeable batteries per year. We will provide collection containers, arrange shipping and pay freight invoices. Then we will bill RBRC for the shipping costs - we'll be sure to include a copy of our shipping documents.

My community's preferred method of payment is:

___ Check payable to RBRC and mail to:

In the U.S.

RBRC

PO Box 31530

Tampa, FL 33631-3530

In Canada

RBRC

PO Box 25091, Station A

Toronto, ON M5W 2X8

___ Purchase Order # (_____)

___ Please invoice me

___ Credit Card # (_____) Expiration Date (/)

___ American Express ___ Master Card ___ Visa

___ Please provide 2 free collection containers for a special collection event planned for my community on this date (/ /)

Municipality or Community Site Name: _____

Contact: _____

Shipping Address (Street Address ONLY - no PO Box) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Web Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different from shipping address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____